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# ARTHUR M SACKLER MD



1913–1987



Joseph J. Goldstein

**Dr Joshua Lederberg**  
President, Rockefeller  
University, New York

Certainly this is the right place. And we, his friends and admirers, are the right people. But how we do lament the time! We all feel how fate has cheated him of the possibility of enjoyment of many of the fruits of his activities and of the opportunity to move still further in many

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fields for which he was just burgeoning with ideas. I know we particularly lament that he could not enjoy the opening of the gallery in Washington that's scheduled for this fall. But it's not for us to say what the right time is.

In fact, Arthur was a very fortunate man. He was decades ahead of his time in his medical and scientific approach to the biochemical basis of schizophrenia. And he lived just long enough to see the vindication of his approach to that very important field where he had done pioneering work decades ago. He was able to see many other fruits from his philanthropies covering an incredible range of interests. I can't think of another individual who has touched so many different fields of culture, of education, science, medicine, and of communication, and did so with very great insight and taste. If there was ever a man who knew what he was doing in every one of those fields, it was Arthur M Sackler.

I would like to remark on another facet of his life where he will be very deeply missed. It is how he spoke out without inhibition, without restraint, in an unrelenting way against the stupidities of office, against those small minds who put many obstacles in the path of generating human fruits of technical and medical advance in many ways. And not only about their stupidities, but about the enormous human cost that was entailed in the frustrations that would lie in the path of the proper development and dissemination of these advances. I think that this is what I will miss above all. Cardinal O'Connor talked about the can-

dles that Arthur Sackler lit. The ones I will remember are the ones he held under my feet to make sure that I responded with action in support of the moral imperatives we shared, which he articulated so well.